

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute claims 1-23 with the following:

1. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity, the body having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier cooperatively configured to rest gravitationally on the at least one protrusion dividing the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.
2. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is annular.
3. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is added to the body.
4. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as an integral part of the body.
5. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1 including a lid.
6. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is projecting upwardly into the cavity.
7. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is projecting

upwardly and cooperates with at least one barrier opening securing the barrier to the body.

8. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.

9. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the seat has a front surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A salad container comprising:

a completely removable lid and

a container body ~~having~~ comprising:

an open top,

an exterior surface and

an interior surface defining a cavity

wherein the body having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier having an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion dividing the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.

11. (Original) The salad container of claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.

12. (Original) The salad container of claim 11, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.
13. (Original) The salad container of claim 11, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.
14. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity, the interior surface having a downwardly inward tapering portion, and a selective barrier cooperatively configured to rest on the tapering portion dividing the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber.
15. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14, wherein the body and barrier are cooperatively configured so that the barrier may be securably lodged to the tapered portion of the body.
16. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14 including a lid.
17. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14, wherein the barrier includes peripherally projecting tabs.
18. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 17, wherein the tabs are foldable.

19. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body means having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity for holding foodstuffs, the body means having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier means cooperatively configured to rest gravitationally on the at least one protrusion and to divide the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.

20. (Currently Amended) A salad container comprising:

a completely removable lid and

a container body ~~having~~ comprising:

an open top,

an exterior surface and

an interior surface defining a cavity for holding foodstuffs

wherein the body means having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier means having an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier means in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion and to divide the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.

21. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body means having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity for holding foodstuffs, the interior surface having a downwardly inward tapering portion, and a selective barrier means cooperatively configured to rest on the tapering portion and to divide the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber.

22. (New) The salad container of claim 10, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.

23. (New) The salad container of claim 20, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.